Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00940 271448Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 MCT-01 CU-02 /084 W

-----098733 271542Z /40

R 271413Z JUN 77 FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9126 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PBOR, XF

SUBJ: FREIJ CALLS FOR PALESTINIAN ENTITY

1. AS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY'S FIRST COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY, MAYOR ELIAS FREIJ CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN ENTITY (KIYAN) ON THE WEST BANK UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PLO. "THE LEGITIMATE SPOKESMAN OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE." FREIJ REJECTED BOTH THE MILITARY AND SETTLEMENT ASPECTS OF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND CALLED UPON ARAB STATES TO SUPPORT ARAB EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK.

2. COMMENT: FRIEJ, ONE OF THE TRADITIONAL NOTABLES WHO ACCEPTED THE INVITATION OF ISRAELI DEFMIN WEIZMAN TO ATTEND HIS INVESTITURE LAST WEEK IN TEL AVIV, IS PERHPAS THE MOST MODERATE POLITICIAN ON THE WEST BANK. HIS APPEAL FOR A "PALESTINIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00940 271448Z

ENTITY" WAS NO DOUBT DESIGNED TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH HIS PERCEPTION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONCEPT OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. SIGNIFICANTLY, FREIJ DID NOT REFER TO THE PLO AS THE SOLE SPOKESMAN OF THE PALESTINIANS AS HE RESERVES FOR THE MAYORS THE ROLE OF REPRESENTING THE WEST BANK. ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY, NO MENTION WAS MADE OF JORDAN.

IN BETHLEHEM, PERHAPS THE MOST MODERATE AND CHRISTIAN TOWN ON THE WEST BANK, FREIJ'S SPEECH WAS INTERRUPTED TWICE BY APPLAUSE---BOTH TIMES UPON MENTION OF THE PLO.
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Message Attributes

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